

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

electrically connecting a network interface card with a host computing device, the network interface card comprising a memory with a device driver file and at least a first portion of network-specific data stored therein;

in response to electrically connecting the network interface card, sending a the device driver file and [[a]] the first portion of network-specific data from a station the network interface card to [[a]] the host computing device;

receiving an option for device driver installation, wherein the option is not selectable in the device driver file or in the first portion of network-specific data;

installing the sent device driver file based on the received option;

storing a second portion of network-specific data at the memory of the network interface card station that is not accessible by the host computing device, wherein the second portion of network-specific data comprises at least one parameter for controlling use of a network by the host computing device, and wherein the at least one parameter sets a length of time that the host computer can access the network once access is granted; and

receiving a data block from the host computing device, wherein the host computing device uses the device driver to transfer the data block to the network interface card station, wherein the first portion of network-specific data comprises a plurality of pre-configured network-specific parameters that enable the host computer to access the network, and wherein the network interface card station controls access to the network by the host computer using the second portion of network-specific data.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying the first portion of network-specific data at the host computing device.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising storing an AutoRun file and a Setup file on the network interface card station.

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4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the memory device driver file is stored at the station in one of a flash memory, a read-only memory, a programmable read-only memory, and a magnetic disk memory.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the network-specific data define a security configuration and a network configuration.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the security configuration comprises encryption-related and authentication-related parameters, and wherein the network configuration comprises a network identifier.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the network identifier is an IEEE 802.11 basic service set identifier.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus~~ A network interface card, comprising:
a memory for storing at least a device driver file and network-specific data, comprising a first portion of network-specific data and a second portion of network-specific data;
a host interface for transferring the device driver file[[,]] and the first portion of network-specific data, ~~and parameters that change over time, wherein the parameters that change over time comprise a signal strength parameter and a data rate parameter;~~ and
a transmitter for transmitting a data block into a network, wherein the data block is received from a host computing device using a device driver represented by the device driver file, wherein the first portion of network-specific data is configured to enable the host computing device to access the network, wherein the second portion of network-specific data is unreadable by the host computing device and is configured to control access to the network by the host computing device, wherein the network interface card is configured to electrically couple with a card slot of the host computing device, and wherein the host interface is configured to trigger transfer of the device driver file and the first portion of network-specific data to the host computer upon electrically coupling with the host computer.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ network interface card of claim 9, wherein the network-specific data define a security configuration and a network configuration.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ network interface card of claim 10, wherein the security configuration comprises encryption-related and authentication-related parameters, and wherein the network configuration comprises a network identifier.

12. (Previously Presented) The ~~apparatus~~ network interface card of claim 11, wherein the network identifier is an IEEE 802.11 basic service set identifier.

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ network interface card of claim 9, wherein the second portion of network-specific data comprises data that sets a length of time that the host computer can access the network.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ network interface card of claim 9, further comprising a host computing device for:

- installing the device driver;
- generating the data block; and
- displaying the first portion of network-specific data.

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ network interface card of claim 9, wherein the memory is also for storing an AutoRun file and a Setup file.

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ network interface card of claim 9, wherein the memory comprises one of a flash memory, a read-only memory, a programmable read-only memory, and a magnetic disk memory.

17. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
a transceiver, configured as a network interface card, for:
 sending a device driver file and a first portion of network-specific data;

storing a second portion of network-specific data, the second portion of network data comprising at least one parameter ~~[[to]]~~ which specifies a time permitted to control access to a network once access is granted; and

transmitting a data block into a network based on the second portion of network-specific data; and

a host computing device, comprising a card slot configured for electrically connecting with the network interface card, the host computing device configured for:

receiving the device driver file and the first portion of network-specific data;

selecting an option for device driver installation, wherein the option is not selectable in the device driver file or in the first portion of network-specific data;

installing a device driver that is represented by the device driver file based on the selected option;

generating the data block; and

using the device driver to transfer the data block to the transceiver, wherein the first portion of network-specific data is configured to control access by the host computing device to the network, and wherein the host computing device is unable to read the second portion of network-specific data.

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the host computing device is also for displaying the first portion of network-specific data.

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the host computing device is also for:

reading an AutoRun file; and

executing a Setup file; wherein the AutoRun file and the Setup file are stored at the station and wherein the Setup file is for installing the device driver at the host computing device.

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the transceiver is also for storing the device driver file in one of a flash memory, a read-only memory, a programmable read-only memory, and a magnetic disk memory.

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the first portion of network-specific data and the second portion of network-specific data define a security configuration and a network configuration.

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the security configuration comprises encryption-related and authentication-related parameters, and wherein the network configuration comprises a network identifier.

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the network identifier is an IEEE 802.11 basic service set identifier.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) A host computing device, comprising:
means for electrically coupling with a station configured as a host interface card;
means for receiving a device driver file and a first portion of network-specific data from the station, ~~the first portion of network-specific data comprising a plurality of pre-configured network-specific parameters, wherein the plurality of pre-configured network-specific parameters comprise parameters for providing status, configuration, diagnostics, and administration,~~ wherein the station stores a second portion of network-specific data configured to control access to a network and configured to be that is unreadable by the means for receiving, the second portion of network data comprising at least one parameter which specifies a time permitted to access the network once access to the network is granted;

means for selecting an option for device driver installation, wherein the option is not selectable in the device driver file or in the first portion of network-specific data;

means for installing at the means for receiving a device driver that is represented by the device driver file based on the selected option; and

means for transmitting a data block into ~~[[a]]~~ the network, wherein the means for receiving generates the data block, wherein the means for receiving uses the device driver to transfer the data block to the station, and wherein the first portion of network-specific data is

configured to enable the means for receiving to access the network, ~~and wherein the second portion of network-specific data is configured to control access to the network.~~

26. (Previously Presented) The host computing device of claim 25, further comprising means for displaying the first portion of network-specific data at the means for receiving.

27. (Previously Presented) The host computing device of claim 25, further comprising means for reading an AutoRun file and for executing a Setup file, wherein the AutoRun file and the Setup file are stored on the station and wherein the Setup file is for installing the device driver at the means for receiving.

28. (Previously Presented) The host computing device of claim 25, wherein the device driver file is stored at the station in one of a flash memory, a read-only memory, a programmable read-only memory, and a magnetic disk memory.

29. (Previously Presented) The host computing device of claim 25, wherein the network-specific data define a security configuration and a network configuration.

30. (Previously Presented) The host computing device of claim 29, wherein the security configuration comprises encryption-related and authentication-related parameters, and wherein the network configuration comprises a network identifier.

31. (Previously Presented) The host computing device of claim 30, wherein the network identifier is an IEEE 802.11 basic service set identifier.

32. (Cancelled)